

Standards: Accelerating Information Sharing by Reducing Waste and Increasing Efficiency

By **Walt Okon**

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Standardizing how we collect, structure, tag, transport, and store our data is fundamental to ensuring our processes and technologies enable us to share and protect information. This is especially true today, when the scale of the Information Sharing Environment (ISE) spans all levels of government and extends to the [private sector](#) ^[4] and foreign partners.

Without [standards](#) ^[5], the enterprise architecture framework that supports the ISE cannot deliver the decentralized, distributed, coordinated, and interoperable capabilities we expect it to ? specifically, we want the processes used by our mission partners and the technologies provided by industry to consistently inform us of: 1) who is attempting to access or share information, 2) what the specific information is, and 3) whether or not to permit access or sharing based on policy decisions.

Standards Working Group

The [Information Sharing and Access Interagency Policy Committee \(ISA IPC\)](#) ^[6] is the body that provides government-wide oversight and governance for information sharing. Recently, the ISA IPC co-chairs established the Standards Working Group (SWG) under the Information Integration Subcommittee of the ISA IPC. The SWG will focus on how standards and profiles should be coordinated and developed to ensure agreement, reduce duplication of effort, and influence existing standards efforts across the whole of government. In my role as co-chair of the SWG, I look forward to working with ISE mission partners to standardize our core processes and to work with industry to ensure the right technical standards are baked in to the technologies that we purchase.

Editor's note:

The Standards Working Group just met and agreed upon upcoming goals and a way forward, as well as setting the repository summit date for August 8th

. The summit will be open to government employees (from other interested federal departments and agencies as well) and their contractor staff. The Standards Working Group is a strong example of information sharing efforts because it convenes representatives from all five major federal partners of the ISE (State, Justice, Homeland Security, Intel, and Defense) as well as partners in state, local, and tribal governments.

Voluntary Consensus Standards

Inventing new standards for the government makes no sense when there are already communities within the government and private sector that have decided on a set of common processes and technologies that get the job done. The goal of the SWG is to seek out and champion best practices of industry and mission partners in order to evaluate and select the best in existing international, commercial, and government

standards. In all of our work, we will seek to uphold and implement the guidance and directives of [OMB Circular A-119, Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities](#) ^[7].

Driving Out Redundancy and Waste

In our work, we use OMB Circular A-130, Management of Federal Information Resources, to guide us in our efforts to identify and implement best practices in our process and technology decisions. If we are relentless and consistent in our efforts, we will drive our community toward existing common and interoperable solutions and away from unique or niche processes or technologies that do not provide the promise of scalable, decentralized interoperability that our sprawling Information Sharing Environment requires to be successful. Success is measured by our ability to act as a federation, making our own procurement and process decisions that comply with mutually agreed upon standards that ensure we share the right information with right person at the right time.

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Mon, 07/18/2011

Reference:

[Improving NIEM Tools through Standards Body Partnerships](#) ^[11]

[Aggregating and Sharing Terrorism-Related Data on a Large Scale](#) ^[12]

[PM-ISE Joins Standards Organizations OMG and OASIS](#) ^[13]

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